



Introducing the New and Improved....

Arizona Airways

Winter Issue—December 2008

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2008 YEAR WRAP UP

AzSRC President's Message

Chuck Ramirez, 2008 AzSRC President, is wrapping up his term in office. Many thanks to Chuck for his excellent service and dedication to our great profession. I asked Chuck to reflect on 2008 and the key accomplishments and his comments are shared herein.

“The biggest accomplishment for 2008 has to be the defeat of HB 2741. When we put out the call for help I was thinking 5 maybe 6 RCPs would contact their representatives. I was so wrong! The political savvy of RCP in this state astonished me. The volume of calls, emails, faxes were incredible. After the defeat, I started to realize two things. First, just how fragile our profession is in the sense that one person, in this case the Arizona Governor could potentially say “No more RCPs”. And secondly, even though we work in various RCP domains, we as therapists are very close. It was amazing to see us work as one and how closely linked we really are.

The second accomplishment was our commitment to move towards a web based organization. The Airways, CEU information, conference information (conference program, online registration, vendor packet, golf) all moved to an online format. Hopefully, we can continue down this path to support a “one stop web spot” for all RCP information.

Moving on to 2009, we need to continue to reinvent ourselves and look into restructuring old practices. For instance, the 2009 state conference is already established. We are having the conference at the Arizona Grand, August 19th, 2009. The rationale for doing so was to look into the future and not spend our resources doing the same things every year. Now that the where and when has been addressed, the 2009 conference committee can spend their time getting the best speakers, educational topics and networking events.

The Board has also been working on an email data base that should be rolling out in early 2009. We realized that mailings are just too slow and costly. Therefore, we started working on a new email data base to improve communication and be cost neutral. We, as a Board, continue to focus on the need to get the information out to RCPs while being cost effective.

We look forward to 2009! The Board remains committed to education, technology, science of respiratory care, and to providing advancement in the our great field. Happy New Year!

Inside this Issue of The Airways:

2008 AzSRC President's Wrap Up Message	Page 1
Arizona Hospital Spotlight ~ Mountain Vista Medical Center.....	Page 2
John C. Lincoln Deer Valley Receives Prestigious Award.....	Page 3
2009 AzSRC Board Election Results.....	Page 3
2008 PACT Review.....	Page 4
NBRC Competency Program Changes.....	Page 5
Arizona Outstanding Achievement Award~ Bring on the Nominations!.....	Page 6

The Arizona Hospital Spotlight shines on.....

MOUNTAIN VISTA MEDICAL CENTER

This issue, The Airways is honored to shine the Arizona Hospital Spotlight on Mountain Vista Medical Center. I had the wonderful privilege of interviewing Geeta Joshi, Director of Respiratory Care at Mountain Vista and learned a lot about this thriving facility and department!

Mountain Vista Medical Center is owned by Iasis Healthcare, with sister facilities of Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center, and St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center. Mountain Vista opened its doors in July 2007. It is a 178-bed, state-of-the-art hospital located in east Mesa, Arizona, offering comprehensive healthcare services, including a 30 bed emergency department, heart center, intensive care, advanced surgical procedures, weight loss surgery (bariatric surgery), orthopedics, gastroenterology, breast care, maternity care (including a Level II nursery), women's services, and help for a broad range of medical conditions. The orthopedic and gastroenterology services are the latest additions to Mountain Vista's current service menu. Equipped with the most advanced medical technology, and staffed by a team of highly skilled healthcare professionals, Mountain Vista is committed to providing high quality care in a friendly hospital environment.

The facility experiences census fluctuations driven by east valley winter visitors. In order to provide the best in care, Mountain Vista developed a unique program for this patient population ~ "Senior Advantage". This program is offered to residents age 55 and over and is designed to promote healthy living, such as health screenings, educational seminars, access to physician listings, medicine checks and social gatherings. What a great resource!

The Respiratory Care Department is very active! With 22 therapists, the department offers 24/7 care throughout all patient care areas of the facility. Some therapists are trained with special procedures including arterial line insertions. Respiratory Therapists prepared for the Level II nursery by undergoing NRP training, reviews of ventilator transport, nasal CPAP and other related nursery respiratory procedures. In addition, therapists will soon be cross-trained into the stress testing and cardiac testing units.

Geeta Joshi has been at the helm of this great department since June of 2008. Geeta came to Mountain Vista from Mesa General Hospital, where she served as the Respiratory Director for 12 years. With a degree in microbiology, Geeta has the experience needed to lead! She has been a Respiratory Therapist for more than 26 years, and has been recognized by the Arizona Lung Association for her contributions. Geeta enjoys working with people, and leads by example through servant headship.

Geeta has a wonderful personal background. She is a native of India, born in Bombay. She came to the United States in 1979. Her family is a strong priority; she is married and has a 14 year old daughter. Her husband has a large family here in Arizona. Over the holidays, Geeta's family celebrates a traditional Indian Festival called "Diwali Festival", which is essentially a day for "brothers and sisters". Brothers come to their sisters homes while bringing their sister a gift. It is a special time for siblings to connect and share. What a wonderful tradition! My thanks to Geeta for allowing me to spend some time with her and to be able to share information about herself, her department, and Mountain Vista Medical Center. Learn more at www.mvmedicalcenter.com.

Respectfully, Michelle Williams, RRT Airways Editor

SAVE THE DATE! 2009 AzSRC Educational Conference

August 18-20th, 2009

Arizona Grand Resort

Cutting Edge Topics

Great Speakers

Networking Events



Congratulations! Prestigious Arizona State Quality Award goes to....John C. Lincoln Deer Valley!

Congratulations to John C. Lincoln Deer Valley, Pam Harrington and the entire Respiratory Care Department on receiving The Pioneer Award for Quality!

I am very pleased to let you know that John C. Lincoln Deer Valley Hospital was chosen as a 2008 recipient of the prestigious Arizona State Quality Award by the Arizona State Quality Alliance. The Alliance is a large group of Arizona industry, government and healthcare businesses dedicated to improving operational and financial performance through focused attention on processes that improve quality. While other hospitals have received awards for some of their departments, this is the first time the Alliance has given an award for an entire hospital. The annual Arizona State Quality Awards Program recognizes Arizona organizations for performance excellence. The program, modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige Award criteria, provides not only an opportunity for recognition, but also valuable feedback on where an organization is positioned on the quality continuum. The Pioneer Award for Quality honors organizations that have established and deployed fundamental quality systems within their operations, attaining high levels of performance excellence process implementation.

John C. Lincoln Deer Valley began this process in 2006, and received an award for Mendy's Place. This year, they submitted a detailed application in July and a team of examiners were onsite for three days in October to evaluate their business and clinical processes. The examiner feedback was reviewed by a panel of Judges. This award reflects years of dedicated hard work by many different Deer Valley Teams to establish goals and adopt processes to improve performance.

Awards will be presented at a banquet to be held from 11:30-1:30p.m on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at the Chaparral Suites Resort, 5001 N. Scottsdale Road. Additional information about the Awards is available at www.arizona-excellence.com or by calling 480-874-5815. Applications for the 2009 program will be available in February 2009.

2009 AzSRC Board of Directors Election Committee Report December 11, 2008

***861 Ballots were mailed out to members, 202 Ballots were returned.
Congratulations to All!!***

Election Results:

President: Bill Sayers, RRT

President-Elect: Kathy Rineer, MBA, RRT

Past President: Chuck Ramirez, BA, RRT

Vice President: Amy Bardin, RRT

Secretary: Shannon Miranda, RRT

Treasurer: Layla Logan

Delegate: Marie Fenske, Ed.D, RRT & Ed Thomas, MA, RRT

Directors: Ed Hoskins, M. Ed, RRT, Cheryl Hamilton, MS, RRT

Tony Rodela, MBA, RRT, Jim Love, RRT

2008 Year at a Glance ~

“Choosing to See the Glass as Half full!”

Have you ever started on a trip and had a premonition that something bad or something undesirable was going to happen? This is the way my thoughts were when I was thinking in January of our legislative issues for 2008. I know we had challenges and hard work ahead of us to overcome the previous years of disappointments. I knew we had to start this year believing in the half full glass instead of half empty. We just had to have a winning atmosphere and attitude.

The Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT) met in Washington D.C. on the second weekend in March to meet our main challenge- HR 6331- the Medicare Respiratory Initiative Act of 2007 AR5968. Cheryl West, Director of Government Affairs and Toni Rodriguez, AARC President were both present to inform and cheer us on to victory. On March 11th, we all scheduled our appointments with Senators and Representatives. It was our job to educate our representatives for the need of their initiative for our patients.

On July 15, 2008 this bill passed a veto with an override vote in the Senate of 70-26 and the House 383-41. This happened due to the large amount of people calling, writing letters and emailing. These were people who refused to give up. I am so proud of us!

This last spring our Governor decided, for the sake of efficiency to close some of the boards and commissions and combined others together. These are 90-10 boards that are self-supporting with 90% of their earnings and 10% to the State. Our Governor also decided we should be with the Board of Nursing. She did not realize what a sleeping giant she had awakened.

Our state President, Chuck Ramirez brought our team together. We had several meetings with the AZSRC and the AZ Board of Respiratory Care Examiners to find out what we were up against and what our options were. After the facts were gathered, we all went to work with letters, emails and phone calls. Meetings were held with Senate President Tim Bee and Representatives in the House. Working with other organizations helped create political pressure to defeat this effort. I, for one, will start 2009 working our legislative issues with a full glass and never consider a half empty glass.

Respectfully, Jim Love, RRT AZ PACT Coordinator

Gracias!

The AzSRC would like to extend our **THANKS** to:

EDDIE SMITH & CASA GRANDE REGIONAL HOSPITAL for

Allowing the AzSRC to utilize their conference rooms for Board Meetings! Very appreciated!!

RON EVANS & *VALLEY RESPIRATORY SERVICES..... for

The GENEROUS donation of a lap-top for the AzSRC use! WOW!

*Valley Respiratory Services was founded in 2006 with the intent of providing better service and care to respiratory patients in the home. Their motto is "Where Patients Are Our Priority". They provide all types of oxygen in the home along with CPAP, BIPAP, Adaptive Servo Ventilation, and Nebulizers. They serve over 4500 patients in Maricopa County, currently employ 7 full time Respiratory Therapists and have a combined 120 years of experience. They pride themselves in only using Licensed Respiratory Therapists for every patient set up.

NBRC Competency Program Changes— Effective January 1, 2009

The NBRC Board of Trustees considered and approved two changes to the Continuing Competency Program (CCP) at its November meeting. **THESE CHANGES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009.**

These changes are not retro and only affect individuals whose credentials expire after January 1, 2009.

Fees for Compliance via CE

Current: Individuals who are renewing via the CE route for the CCP pay the following:

\$0 – if they have continuously maintained their active status by paying the \$25 annual renewal fee in each year after earning their credential.

\$125 – if they have not maintained continuous active status.

Proposed:

\$0 – if they have continuously maintained their active status by paying the \$25 annual renewal fee in each year since earning their credential.

Pay the difference between \$125 and what they have paid in annual renewal fees since earning their credential.

Reinstatement for Expired Credentials

Current:

If an individual's credential(s) expire, they are required to retake and pass the respective examination(s) and pay the new applicant fees as well as a lapsed credential fee of \$150 per credential. Example: An individual whose CRT and RRT credentials have expired would be required to pay a total \$880 to retake the examinations on their first attempt.

Proposed:

Implement a six (6) month grace period for individuals whose credential(s) expire to document their CE (provided it was completed prior to their credential expiration date), pay a reinstatement fee of \$250 and waive the requirement for these individuals to retake and pass the respective examination(s).

**The Airways is always accepting
articles & information!
If you have something to share,
please submit to:**

Airways Editor 2008
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We're on the Web!!!!

www.azsrc.org

Arizona Outstanding Achievement Award

Online Nomination Forms Available February 1st, 2009!

The AzSRC has introduced an Arizona Outstanding Achievement Award designed to recognize and honor Arizona RCPs who have contributed to the growth and development of the Respiratory Care Profession.

This recognition is to be as highly regarded as the Life-time Member recognition. Requests for nominations are not solicited as freely as the annual RCP of the Year, however, nominations can be accepted by the Board at any time.

Recognition will be provided in two categories: Outstanding Achievement Inductee and Honorable Mention

Outstanding Achievement Inductees

- State and/or National recognized leader or author in the profession.
- Recognition for life-time or career-long dedication to the profession.
- Actions by this individual have had a positive impact on the profession.
- Name recognition for Quality and Advancements within the profession.
- Those awarded for Life-time Member of the AzSRC.

Honorable Mention

- Contribution to the profession recognized, but more regional or for less duration than Outstanding Achievement Inductees.
- Impact on the profession of a lesser magnitude and shorter duration than Outstanding Achievement Inductees.

Process of Nomination:

Any member of the AzSRC/ARRC may nominate an individual for recognition. A form available on the website should be completed for each nomination. Nominations are submitted to the President of the AzSRC. The President will appoint a committee of no less than 3 individuals consisting of active board members to review the nominations. This committee will place the names in the appropriate category. Those names which meet the requirements will be submitted to the entire board for final approval.

Those achieving approval of the board will be contacted by the President, or his/her designee, who will obtain more information from them that will be posted on the website with a picture, if possible. A plaque of honor will be awarded to those individuals at the next AzSRC Annual Meeting.

MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS!!!

The Arizona Society for Respiratory Care
6611 W. Peoria Avenue #5-260
Glendale, AZ 85302